



520.30414V22

B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.
Application No.: 09/766,596
Filed: January 23, 2001
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR
Group: 3749

**PETITION FOR WITHDRAWING ANY POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF THE ABOVE-
IDENTIFIED AND TO ISSUE A NEW NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(s) DUE
WITH A CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS AND CORRECT CUSTOMER NUMBER**

Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 12, 2003

Sir:

The telephone communication from Examiner Wilson on or about September 4, 2003, in connection with the above-identified application, is noted. During this telephone communication, the Examiner referred to a Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed December 18, 2001, in connection with the above-identified application; and that apparently this Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed December 18, 2001 had never been responded to. The Examiner is thanked for this telephone communication.

In view of this telephone communication, the undersigned requested that the Examiner transmit a copy of the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed

December 18, 2001, to the offices of the undersigned, for an investigation as to whether such Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed December 18, 2001 was ever received in the offices of the undersigned. The Examiner cooperated with this request, sending a copy of this Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, to the offices of the undersigned by facsimile.

As will be established in the following, it is respectfully submitted that an original mailing of this Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed December 18, 2001, was never received in the offices of the undersigned attorneys; and, moreover, that a Notice of Abandonment was never received in the offices of the undersigned. This is clearly supported by the incorrect mailing name and address set forth on the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed December 18, 2001, transmitted to the following:

Mitchell P Brook
c/o Baker & McKenzie
101 Broadway
Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101,

as well as the incorrect customer service no. (024057, as compared with the correct customer service no. of 240457) on this Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001.

Accordingly, pursuant to Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 711.02 and the Commissioner's notice in 1156 OG 53, it is respectfully petitioned that any possible holding of abandonment be withdrawn and that a new Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due be mailed in connection with the above-identified application, after consideration of the various papers filed in the above-identified application after May

29, 2001 (that is, amendments to the claims as in the Further Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed January 14, 2002 and in the Supplementing Preliminary Amendment filed March 13, 2003; and the documents submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements respectively submitted February 6, 2002, July 15, 2002 and February 20, 2003).

It is respectfully submitted that issuance of a new Notice of Allowance, after consideration of the above-referred-to papers, is mandated based on the rationale set forth in Delgar, Inc. v. Schuyler, 172 USPQ 513 (DDC 1971).

It is respectfully submitted that the incorrect firm name and address, and incorrect customer service number, on the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, provides sufficient basis for the conclusion that this Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, was not received in the offices of the undersigned. Moreover, as for additional reasons for granting this Petition, the following facts are respectfully submitted.

In the offices of the undersigned attorneys, all mail which is received from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) is given directly to a docketing department. Responsive to receipt of such mail, as a first safeguard, the docketing department maintains a computer database which stores information relating to the filing of papers in the PTO, receipt of papers from the PTO, and due dates for responding to papers received from the PTO. The data in the computer database is backed up on a magnetic tape at the end of each work day.

Attached hereto is a printout of pertinent data in the computer database for the present application. The attached printout shows data fields entitled "Action", "Base", "Due In", "Due", "Final", and "Response" which will be discussed below.

When a paper which must be responded to is received from the PTO, the docketing department enters the mailing date of such paper in the "Base" data field. The description of the paper is set forth in the "Action" data field, and would be "Issue Fee" if the paper is a Notice of Allowance. The "Due" data field is the period for response, the "Final" data field being the final date for response; for the Issue Fee, the same date would normally be set forth for both the "Due" data field and "Final" data field, in view of the 3-month non-extendable period.

As can be seen in the enclosed computer printout for the above-identified application, there are a number of indications that various papers have been filed, including a Supplementing Preliminary Amendment on March 13, 2003; an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed February 20, 2003; an IDS filed July 16, 2002; an IDS filed February 6, 2002; a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed January 14, 2002; a Supplemental IDS filed July 6, 2001 and an Information Disclosure Statement and Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed May 29, 2002.

As can be seen in the enclosed computer printout, a Notice of Allowability is set forth with a "Base" of September 4, 2003; however, this is the copy of the Notice of Allowability attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, transmitted by the Examiner to the offices of the undersigned on September 4, 2003. As can be seen from the enclosed printout, there is no indication of receipt of a Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, around December 18, 2001.

For the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, the expiration date of a non-extendable statutory period for payment of the Issue Fee would be March 18, 2002. Therefore, if the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, had been received in the offices of the undersigned attorney, the docketing department would have added "Issue Fee" under "Action"; a "Base" of December 18, 2001; a "Due" of March 18, 2002; and a "Final" of March 18, 2002. However, as can be seen from the attached printout, this is not set forth, indicating that the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, was never received in the offices of the undersigned attorney.

Furthermore, as a safety cross check against the computer database, the docketing department maintains a handwritten master docket book which has one page for each day of the year.

After data relating to a PTO paper has been entered into the computer database, the docketing department handwrites data relating to such paper into the master docket book on the page corresponding to the expiration date of a maximally-extended statutory period for response to the paper. As discussed above, for the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, the expiration date for payment of the Issue Fee would be March 18, 2002.

Attached hereto is a copy of the master docket book for March 18, 2002. When the Notice of Allowance is received, the docketing department enters the following information in the master docket book on the page corresponding to the expiration date of the last possible date for response: the docket number of an application to which the PTO action pertains; the last name of the first-named inventor of the application; the

serial number of the application; the notification "Issue fee" and, if also due, "pub fee" (for publication fee); and the initials of the attorney to whom the application is assigned.

Therefore, if the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001 had been received in the offices of the undersigned attorneys, the attached copy of the page of the master docket book for March 18, 2002 would show an entry with the following data: docket no. 520.30414V22; the last name "Kato"; Serial No. 766,596; the notation "Issue Fee" and "pub fee"; and the initials "WIS". However, as can be seen from the attached copy of the page of the master docket book for March 18, 2002, such an entry does not appear.

While entries for related applications (Serial No. 780,394; No. 781,452; and No. 780,427) do appear, it is again emphasized that there is no entry for Serial No. 766,596.

It is respectfully submitted that the absence of entries on the master docket book page for March 18, 2002, further evidences the fact that the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001 was never received in the offices of the undersigned attorney.

It is again noted that the copy of the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, sent to the offices of the undersigned on September 4, 2003 by the Examiner, has a mailing address to the following:

Mitchell P Brook
c/o Baker & McKenzie
101 Broadway
Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101,

and a customer service number of 024057. Clearly, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office erred in mailing the Notice of Allowance on December 18, 2001 to an incorrect address, and in setting forth an incorrect customer service number for the above-identified application; and it is likely that these errors by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office were the cause of the failure of the Notice of Allowance to be received in the offices of the undersigned.

It is noted that, as seen on the enclosed computer records for the above-identified application, various papers have been filed in the above-identified application after December 18, 2001; and, in fact, after March 18, 2002. For example, a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment was filed January 14, 2002; Information Disclosure Statements were filed February 6, 2002, July 16, 2002 and February 20, 2003; and another Supplementing Preliminary Amendment was filed March 13, 2003. It is respectfully suggested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should have, prior to September 4, 2003, notified Applicants that the Notice of Allowance had been mailed December 18, 2001. Furthermore, it is also noted that Applicants have never received a Notice of Abandonment in the above-identified application. It is respectfully submitted that the present Petition is timely, particularly in light of failures and errors by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in failing to notify Applicants of the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, until September 4, 2003, and is still not notifying Applicants (e.g., by a Notice of Abandonment) of the abandonment of the above-identified application.

Furthermore, upon a full review by the undersigned of the file of the above-identified application that is in the offices of the undersigned, it is hereby stated by the

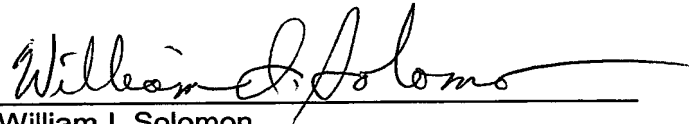
undersigned that a copy of the Notice of Allowance mailed December 18, 2001, other than a copy thereof sent to the undersigned by the Examiner on September 4, 2003, is not in the application file.

For reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed December 18, 2001, was never received in the offices of the undersigned attorney. Accordingly, pursuant to Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 711.02 and under the rationale set forth in Delgar, Inc. v. Schuyler, 172 USPQ 513 (DDC 1971), it is respectfully petitioned that any holding of abandonment be withdrawn, and that a new Notice of Allowance be issued with a mailing date of the date of actual mailing of the new Notice of Allowance, and that all papers having been filed in the above-identified application before the date of mailing of the new Notice of Allowance be entered in and considered in the above-identified application as a matter of right.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 520.30414V22), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William I. Solomon", written over a horizontal line.

William I. Solomon
Registration No. 28,565

1300 North 17th Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: (703) 312-6600
Fax : (703) 312-6666
WIS:sjg

OPER ENTERED MODIFIED ATTORNEYS / / PRINTED ON:

ATSK# CNTRY UNITED STATES NEW/CON RELATED

PATS# TYPE SERIAL# PATENT# STAT

TITLE RL/FM

CLIENT CREF SE ART

AGENT AREF CLAIMS

PRIOR MAIL FILE PUBL ISSUE EXP 1ST

ID	O	ACTION	BASE	DUE IN	DUE	EXTNS	FINAL	EXT	RESPONSE	CALL	1	2	P
PC	N	POST CARD CHECK	1/23/2001	1 M	2/23/2001		2/23/2001	0	2/5/2001	0 M	N	N	Y
	Y	IDS/SUPP PRELIM FLD	5/29/2001										
	Y	SUPPL IDS FILED	7/6/2001										
	Y	SUPP PRE AMEND FILED	1/14/2002										
	Y	IDS FILED	2/6/2002										
ID	N	IDS DUE	7/16/2002	0 M	7/16/2002		7/16/2002	0	7/15/2002	1 M	Y	Y	N
	y	ids filed	2/20/2003										
	Y	SUPPL PRELIM AMNDT	3/13/2003										
	Y	NOT OF ALLOWBILTY	9/4/2003										
SENT BY FAX BY EXAMINER													

PRIOR APPLICATIONS						
REFERENCE#	CNTRY	SERIAL#	FILED	TITLE / DESCRIPTION		TYPE
503.30414C19	US			VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING METHOD THEREOF		APPL

NOTES

12/04/01 FAX/COMMS/INSTR
 01/17/02 LTR/COMMS/INSTR
 03/26/02 FAX/COMMS
 04/18/02 FAX/COMMS RE EXAM RESULTS
 12/27/02 FAX/FILE IDS-NO DUE DATE
 1/16/03 FAX/FILE IDS-NO DUE DATE
 1/17/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 2/10/03 FAX/COMMS
 2/13/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 02/19/03 FAX/AMEND CLAIMS
 2/25/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 2/27/03 FAX/COMMS/INSTR
 3/4/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 3/17/03 FAX/COMMS
 3/24/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 8/1/03 FAX/COMMS
 8/4/03 CCOMMS
 8/5/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 8/22/03 FAX/COMMS/FILE 2 DIV APPS
 9/2/03 LTR/CONFIRM FAX
 9/4/03 FAX/FILE 2 DIV APPS

File #	Name	Address	Phone	Notes
1055.39235X00	Yokoyama	40560964	main floor	ASB bml plm
525.86732X00		4957350	main floor	AK
321.26876X00		4957581	main floor	ASB other
520.37751X00	Yokoyama	421093	Response Ego ml	
520.37152X00	Kobayashi	294012	Response Ego CUB	11/18
523.37887X01	Yam	85250	Response Ego ML	11/18
520.37751X00	Yokoyama	385421	Response Ego CUB	
520.35377X01	Yasai	603967	Response Ego ML	
520.36909X00	Suzuki	242392	Auto Ego	WIS 3/18
520.41587X00	Sakai	931761	Auto Ego	gem
520.40528X00	Kagayama	932113	Auto Ego	MLR 9/29
5243.39542X00	Murami	768471	Election Ego	gem 10/18
523.35780X02	Yamamoto	834876	Election Ego	MLR
512.40914X00	Yam	474210017C	IDS due	DES
512.40887X00	Briley	ATW/CH/13657	IDS due	RMB
520.51264173X00			DRAFT DUE	AC 35434 DES v
520.30414V30	Kato	780394	Response	WIS
520.30414V35	Kato	781452	Response	WIS
520.30414V28	Kato	780427	Response	WIS
520.33511C08	Takeluma	716251	Response	gem
520.3168850X1	Sunguchi	818566	Response	gem
520.37022C02	Fujisawa	907959	Response	gem
520.38996X00	Orano	654890	Response	gem
520.337450X2	Maria	58820	Response	MLR not need
520.34593X23	Nash	835419	Response	AS 3/18
520.37013X00	Sajima	272784	Response	WIS
520.35503X01	Sakuma	644773	Response	MLR
520.37813X01	Miyano	437267	Response	AS 3/18
520.35293X02	Dgino	854378	Response	gem
520.37826X01	Muchan	848123	Response	WIS
523.36918X00	Muramatsu	260129	Response	AS 12/0

200 OIPE 3/18/02

SEP 1 2 2003

RCH

017.3817600 call error abandon dial rmb ✓
 520.3781300 file cont app sem
 520.3322900 form draws cont app cur box
 501.33916100 ISS MK 3/18
 501.3702200 file cont app UNR
 503.3691100 file draw app MK ✓
 520.3755200 file draw app MK ✓
 501.3374500 file cont app 3/18 3/18
 506.3550000 file cont app 3/18 3/18
 520.3836700 file cont app 3/18 MK
 501.3833800 file cont app cur 3/18
 367.3730500 draft resp 3/18 CIB
 503.3593300 file cont wts 3/13
 503.3593300 file cont wts 3/13
 017.4108500 Appendix DES Rmb Rm
 501.3656000 file draw app Gen ✓
 109.4148900 WISWELL 220181 call up 1st draft DES/DO ✓

3 b m p l o m o
 0
 3 other
 63 11 18
 26 11 18
 10
 10
 31 18
 2-9/29
 10/18
 MK APC
 DES
 2MB ✓
 DES ✓

35293

36909 going late

33745

35562

Otherwise ok
 AEP

3/18/02

not need
 16 the - l a l e d o
 118
 118

3701300 Sajma 27284 Quodje WIS
 3556000 Bakamu 644773 Quodje MK
 3781300 Majano 437267 Quodje 3/18
 3529300 Dgno 884378 Quodje Gen
 3782600 Murchant 841823 Quodje WIS
 3691800 Muramatu 260139 Quodje 3/18
 3631200 Standt 091419 Quodje 3/18
 3836700 Marate 526505 Quodje 3/18
 3328900 Quodje 3/18
 3632700 Sano 090154 Quodje 3/18
 3124000 DAgna 810468 Quodje 3/18
 3500000 Pub. Quodje 3/18

ALAB-GRACE